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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/880,689

06/13/2001

Robert D. Fields

H10276/KNM

4306

1333 7590 02/13/2007
PATENT LEGAL STAFF
EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
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EXAMINER

NOTE, JANIS L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1756

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,689

Applicant(s)

FIELDS ET AL.

Examiner

Janis L. Dote

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5-7,9-11,13-16,18-20,22-29,32,33,36,38-41,45 and 46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5-7,9-11,13-16,18-20,22-27,32,33,36,38-41,45 and 46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. A request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicants' submission filed on Dec. 22, 2006, has been entered.

2. The "Listing of claims" filed on Nov. 20, 2006, has been entered as requested in the RCE filed on Dec. 22, 2006. There are no claim changes, i.e., amendments to the claims or cancellation of claims, in the "Listing" filed on Nov. 20, 2006. Claims 2, 5-7, 9-11, 13-16, 18-20, 22-29, 32, 33, 36, 38-41, 45, and 46 are pending.

3. The replacement drawing sheets, filed on Nov. 20, 2006, have been entered as requested in the RCE filed on Dec. 22, 2006. The replacement drawing sheets are acceptable.

4. The objection to the drawings set forth in the office action mailed on Jul. 18, 2006, paragraph 4, has been withdrawn

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in response to the replacement drawings sheets filed on Nov. 20, 2006, that were entered on Dec. 22, 2006.

5. The term "2'/10' MECCA charge ratio" recited in instant claims 40 and 46 is defined as the ratio of the level of charge obtained after 2 minutes of charging the toner to the level of charge obtained after 10 minutes of charging, where the charge is determined in a MECCA device. See the instant specification, page 19, lines 15-21, and page 22, lines 1-15.

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. The reference US 6,692,880 B2 (Fields'880) has an effective filing date of May 14, 2001, which is before the filing date of Jun. 13, 2001, of the instant application. The disclosure cited in Fields'880 has antecedent basis in the US provisional application No. 60/290,707 in the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, and at pages 2, 12, 14 and 21-23.

8. Claims 2, 5-7, 14, 16, 23, 25-27, 32, 33, 36, 38-41, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by US 6,692,880 B2 (Fields'880), as evidenced by: (1) the US

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provisional application 60/290,707 (Application'707); (2) the KODAK Material Safety Data Sheet for the product SB77XL DRY, revised on Dec. 08, 2004; (3) ACS File registry number 7631-86-9; and (4) applicants' admission at page 3, lines 13-15, and page 3, line 21, to page 4, line 8, and in Table 1 at page 22 of the instant specification (applicants' admission I).

Fields'880 exemplifies a developer comprising a magnetic carrier and toner particles. The toner particles comprise 88.9 wt% of a crosslinked styrene-butylacrylate copolymer associated with the tradename SB77XL, produced by Eastman Kodak, 6.2 wt% of carbon black, 1.5 wt% of an organo iron complex, charge control agent associated with the tradename T77, and 2.0 wt% of a polyethylene wax. The toner particles are surface treated with 0.10 wt% of hydrophobic silica associated with the tradename R972 silica, obtained from Nippon Aerosil. See Fields'880, col. 12, lines 10-20 and 45-51, and Table 3 at col. 13, example 8; and Application'707, page 21, lines 10-13, page 22, lines 13-16, and Table 3 at page 23, example 8.

The Fields'880 amount of 88.9 wt% of the crosslinked styrene-acrylate copolymer associated with the tradename SB77XL, produced by Eastman Kodak, is within the range of "about 80 wt% to about 95 wt%" recited in instant claim 33, which depends on

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independent claim 40. The amount of 88.9 wt% meets the amount of "about 90 wt%" recited in instant claim 14, which depends on independent claim 46. The term "about" admits variation. There is no credible evidence on the present record showing that the amount of "about 90 wt%" recited in instant claim 14 is patentably distinct from the Fields'880 amount of 88.9 wt%. The Fields'880 amount of 1.5 wt% of the organo iron complex charge control agent associated with the tradename T77 is within the range of "about 1 wt% to about 2.5 wt%" recited in instant claim 33. The amount of 1.5 wt% of the organo iron complex charge control agent meets the amount of "about 1.8 wt%" recited in instant claim 14. There is no credible evidence on the present record showing that the amount of "about 1.8 wt%" is patentably distinct from the Fields'880 amount of 1.5 wt%. The Fields'880 amount of 0.10 wt% of the hydrophobic silica is within the range of "about 0.05 wt% to about 5.0 wt%" recited in instant claim 33. The amount of 0.10 wt% meets the amount of "about 0.2 wt%" recited in instant claim 14. There is no credible evidence on the present record showing that the amount of "about 0.2 wt%" is patentably distinct from the Fields'880 amount of 0.10 wt%. See Fields'880, col. 12, lines 10-20, and Table 3 at col. 13, example 8; and Application'707, page 21, lines 10-13, and Table 3 at page 23, example 8.

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After mixing the toner particles with the magnetic carrier for 2 minutes, the toner particles had a MECCA charge to mass ratio (Q/m) of $-27.0 \mu\text{C/g}$, which is within the numerical range of -20 to about $-30 \mu\text{C/g}$ recited in instant claims 40 and 46. After mixing the toner particles with the magnetic carrier for 10 minutes, the toner particles had a MECCA Q/m of $-37.0 \mu\text{C/g}$. The "charge ratio" of the Q/m at 2 minutes to the Q/m at 10 minutes is 0.73. Fields'880, col. 12, lines 57-63, and Table 3, example 8; and Application'707, paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23, and Table 3, example 8. The Fields'880 "charge ratio" of the Q/m at 2 minutes to the Q/m at 10 minutes of 0.73 meets the lower-limit, "about 0.9," in the range "about 0.9 to about 1.1" recited in instant claims 40 and 46. The term "about" admits variation. There is no credible evidence on the present record showing that the charge ratio "about 0.9" is patentably distinct from the Fields'880 charge ratio of 0.73.

Fields'880 does not expressly disclose that its toner binder resin comprises silica or colloidal silica as recited in instant claims 40 and 46, and in claim 32, which depends from claim 40. However, as discussed above, the Fields'880 toner particles meet the compositional limitations recited in the instant claims, but for the disclosure that the toner resin comprises silica or colloidal silica. For the reasons discussed

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above, the Fields'880 toner particles meet the charge properties recited in the instant claims. In addition, Fields'880 discloses that the toner particles have "stable triboelectric properties." Fields'880, col. 1, lines 34-37; and Application'707, page 2, lines 22-23. That property is the property sought by applicants. The instant application teaches that the presence of colloidal silica or silica particles in the toner resin leads to toner "stable triboelectric charge levels independent of relative humidity and which are consistent over time" (page 3, lines 13-15, and page 3, line 21, to page 4, line 8, of the instant specification). Furthermore, the Fields'880 toner resin comprises a crosslinked styrene-acrylate copolymer associated with the tradename SB77XL produced by Eastman Kodak, which is presumably the same tradename/toner binder resin used in the inventive examples of the instant specification. The instant specification does not explicitly identify the source of the colloidal silica or silica in the toner particles exemplified in the inventive examples. See the instant specification, Table 1 at page 22. The KODAK Material Safety Data sheet (MSDS) for the product SB77XL states that the product comprises silica, which is identified with the CAS-No 7631-86-9. The ACS file registry number 7631-86-9 states that another name for silica is "colloidal silica." See page 8 of

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the ACS File registry number 7631-86-9 printout. Although the MSDS has a revision date of Dec. 8, 2004, which is after the filing date of Fields'880, the product SB77XL was utilized in Fields'880, which has an effective filing date of May 14, 2001, and in the instant specification, which has a filing date of Jun. 13, 2001. When, as here, the inventive examples in the instant specification, which are said to have all of the properties required of the claimed composition, are silent as to the origin of the particular colloidal silica or silica, but share a common component with at least one of the references, i.e., SB77XL, an Eastman Kodak resin, the presumption becomes strong that the toner binder resin is the source of the "missing component," in this case, the colloidal silica or silica. Surely, applicants are in the best position to identify the source of the colloidal silica or silica in their inventive examples. Moreover, because the toner binder resin in the reference is an Eastman Kodak material and because the reference also shares common inventors with the instant application, applicants are also in the best position to verify the presence (or absence) of colloidal silica or silica in the toner binder resin of the reference.

Thus, based on the above facts, it is reasonable to presume that the toner particles in example 8 of Fields'880 comprise the

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silica or colloidal silica as recited in instant claims. The burden is on applicants to prove otherwise. Fitzgerald, supra.

Finally, Fields'880 teaches that the magnetic carrier can comprise preferably strontium ferrite particles coated with a polymeric coating. Fields'880, col. 6, lines 47-57, and col. 8, lines 14-25; and Application'707, page 12, lines 2-4, and page 14, lines 7-13. Thus, the Fields'880 magnetic carrier meets the carrier compositional limitations recited in instant claims 25-27.

9. Claims 9-11, 13, 15, 18-20, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Fields'880, as evidenced by: (1) Application'707; (2) the KODAK Material Safety Data Sheet for the product SB77XL DRY, revised on Dec. 08, 2004; (3) ACS File registry number 7631-86-9; and (4) applicants' admission I.

Fields'880, as evidenced by Application'707, the other cited references, and applicants' admission I, discloses a developer as described in paragraph 8 above, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The Fields'880 amount of the polyethylene wax, 2.0 wt%, is within the range of "about 0.1 wt% to about 10 wt%" based on the weight of the toner particles recited in instant claims 13 and 22. The amount of 2.0 wt% meets the limitation "about

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1.8 wt%" recited in instant claims 15 and 24. There is no credible evidence on the present record showing that the amount of "about 1.8 wt%" is patentably distinct from the Fields'880 amount of 2.0 wt%.

For the reasons discussed in paragraph 8, supra, it is reasonable to presume that the toner particles in example 8 of Fields'880 comprise the silica as recited in instant claims. The burden is on applicants to prove otherwise. Fitzgerald, supra.

Claims 9-11, 13, 15, 18-20, 22, and 24 are written in product-by-process format. Fields'880 does not disclose that the cross-linked styrene-acrylate copolymer is made by a "limited coalescence" process as recited in the instant claims. However, as discussed above, the Fields'880 copolymer meets the compositional limitations recited in the instant claims. Accordingly, the Fields'880 copolymer appears to be the same or substantially the same as the toner resin made by the "limited coalescence" process recited in the instant claims. The burden is on applicants to prove otherwise. In re Marosi, 218 USPQ 289 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985); MPEP 2113.

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10. Applicants' arguments filed on Nov. 20, 2006, with respect to the rejections set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9 above have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants assert that the showing in the Rule 131 declaration filed on Nov. 20, 2006, overcomes the rejections over Fields'880 set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.

The declaration filed on Nov. 20 2006, under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Fields'880 reference. It fails to establish a reduction to practice of the invention in this country or a NAFTA or WTO member country prior to the effective date of the Fields reference for the following reasons:

The declaration fails to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.131(b) to establish a reduction to practice of the invention in the United States prior to May 14, 2001.

37 CFR 1.131(b) states that "[t]he showing of facts shall be such, in character and weight, as to establish reduction to practice prior to the effective date of the reference Original exhibits of drawings or records, or photocopies thereof, must accompany and form part of the affidavit or declaration or their absence must be satisfactorily explained" (emphasis added).

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The declaration filed on Nov. 20, 2006, states that "[c]opies of all the laboratory notebook pages referred to . . . are provided with this Declaration," which are labeled as Exhibits A through C. However, contrary to the declaration's statement, no exhibits are attached to the declaration.

Moreover, even if the alleged exhibits A through C were attached to the Rule 131 declaration, the Rule 131 declaration fails to recite sufficient facts for the examiner to determine which of the claim limitations are satisfied by the evidence shown in the exhibits. The Rule 131 declaration does not specifically state what claim limitations, e.g., the toner binder resin comprising a cross-linked styrene-acrylic copolymer and silica particles required in independent claim 40, are met by the showing in the exhibits. The declaration and exhibits must clearly explain which facts or data applicants are relying on to show completion of their invention prior to the reference date. In addition, any missing claim limitation that is not supported by the exhibits must be supported by the declaration itself.

"Vague and general statements in broad terms about what the exhibits describe along with a general assertion that the exhibits describe a reduction to practice amounts essentially to mere pleading, unsupported by proof of a showing of facts"

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and thus, does not satisfy the requirements of 37 CFR 1.131."

MPEP 715.07.I.

Applicants' remarks describing what claim limitations are shown in the alleged exhibits in the response filed on Nov. 20, 2006, are not part of the Rule 131 declaration. They are mere attorney argument. As discussed above, 37 CFR 1.131(b) requires that Rule 131 declaration clearly explain the facts or data applicants are relying on to show completion of their invention prior to the particular data; and that any missing claim limitation that is not supported by the exhibits must be supported by the declaration itself.

Accordingly, the Rule 131 declaration filed on Nov. 20, 2006, is ineffective to overcome the Fields' 880 reference. The rejections set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9 above stand.

11. Claims 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons discussed in the office action mailed on Jul. 18, 2006, paragraph 11, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janis L. Dote whose telephone number is (571) 272-1382. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Mark Huff, can be reached on (571) 272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry regarding papers not received regarding this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Supervisory Application Examiner Ms. Claudia Sullivan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1052.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JLD

Feb. 10, 2007

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GROUP 1500
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